

THE LAND

(From the Sydney Mail, May 1.)

New South Wales has a decidedly sweet tooth. No subject just now is so attractive as sugar, and well it may be, for between the cane and the beetroot we shall not fail of making sugar ultimately a source of great wealth. This is by no means the first situation in which these two plants have been rivals for the honour of ministering to the wants of the human race. It was the introduction of the beetroot culture in France, Belgium, and Germany, as well as the abolition of slavery, that checked the enormous profits of the West India planters. The cane planters have always worked under difficulties since the beetroot was made to yield its sugar, and several attempts have been made by them to recover their lost pre-eminence. The chemist and the mechanist have both tried to accomplish the desired purpose, and have made many failures. The idea is, of course, to provide a process by which labour may be dispensed with. Up to the present, the only compensation made by modern science to the West India sugar planters for the discovery of beetroot sugar has been the vacuum pan; but something better than this will soon be done. We perceive an account of a scientific and carefully considered attempt to combine chemical and mechanical science for reducing the expense of sugar manufacture in *Morgan's Trade Journal*. It concerns a new process of cane sugar making invented by Mr. Walter Knapp, of which we know no more than is stated. The three main points of the making good sugar are:—The complete clarification of the juice; a rapid evaporation, out of contact of air, of this juice; and its granulation at a low temperature into sugar. It is found difficult to ensure these conditions when the operation is in many hands. The use of lime being, as the inventor explains, exceedingly prejudicial, permanganate of soda or potash is employed as a substitute. The cane is crushed by being put through a set of plate rolls. "To prevent the acidifying of the juice it is at once treated with sulphurous acid gas, which is forced into the liquid. It is then as quickly brought up to the boiling point, and the scum taken off. It is the application of this system of clarifying, in which sugar is boiled prior to being limed. The sulphurous acid gas prevents the spread of acidity in the clarifier, and is afterwards neutralized by the addition of clay. During this operation, the liquor is being well agitated, and a small quantity of permanganate or permanganate of potash or soda is added until a visible separation of flocculi is apparent. It is then drawn into the 'subsidier'—a vessel intermediate between the clarifier and the evaporator—when it is tempered with lime. The juice is then allowed fifteen or twenty minutes for its impurities to subside to the bottom of the vessel, leaving the cane juice quite clear." To some readers this will be just so much gibberish, but there are many who will be glad of the news; and to these we may also say that the distinguishing feature of the juice thus treated is that it requires no skimming, with the important consequence that it does not require to have water evaporated in order to be concentrated. It can, therefore, be rapidly concentrated into syrup, out of contact with the air, and also, we may add, beyond the control of the workpeople, who are tempted to pilfer it. There is a further economy of labour, in the doing away with the series of coppers in which the syrup is boiled. A steam boiler evaporator is used, which it is not necessary to describe. To those who are sugar-belt growers, and are like Mr. Emanuel, of Goulburn, Mr. Trappitt, of Orange, and Mr. Tutting, of the same district, bothered with the granulating process, probably Mr. Beames's letter may prove seasonable. The more we see of the subject, however, the more we are convinced that the growers should not be obliged to trouble themselves with more than the first reduction of the beet to syrup, and that the sooner manufacturers are constructed to take charge of the most difficult process the better. At Maryborough great advance is made. Since the termination of the crushing season the Sugar Company has been reboiling molasses and bringing out a fine ration sugar. The average attained by this company has been one and a half ton of sugar per acre—a good return, considering the postponement of the crushing. This company will have 175 acres of cane to crush next season.

The Mudgee Agricultural Society has given notice of its ninth exhibition, to take place on the 5th and 6th of next August. They seem not to have been able to make a large prize list; but, in order to keep the revenue up to expenses, it is determined to adopt a system of sweepstakes, to supplement the prizes. Each exhibitor is to be charged an entrance fee, the fees going to the winner in each class. It is not stated what is to be the course pursued with respect to the classing of sheep for prizes. There was last year a good deal of correspondence concerning paddock and bush-fed sheep, and Mr. Bayly and Mr. Riley both argued in favour of matching paddock-fed against bush-fed, and bush-fed against bush-fed sheep, and giving a prize for each. Whether this is a correct plan to adopt depends upon circumstances. If there are any large number of men whose position renders the paddocking of sheep an economical impossibility, almost a physical impossibility, they should be permitted to exhibit apart, and not against better fed sheep; but should not this be the case, it would be most inadvisable in an Agricultural Society to foster a large mode of management by the offer of a prize for bush-fed sheep. If we are correctly informed, there are many sheep farmers about Mudgee who would be blameworthy in paddocking, that is to say, they would be incurring an expense that would never pay. Were this true, the society should lean to their infirmity, and prize the best sheep that can be produced under very unfortunate circumstances.

The tendency of public opinion in England is towards the erection of a *House of Agriculture*. The farmers' rising member, Mr. C. S. Read—the only tenant farmer in the House of Commons—publicly advocated such a step, and thus gave a very reasonable expression to a feeling that has been maturing in the agricultural mind for some time. At the close of a paper read by him, before the Farmers' London Club, on the *Transit of Home and Foreign Live Stock*, he said, "We shall have no real or permanent redress until there is a department, like the Board of Trade, specially devoted to agriculture. We want some one to advise and guide us in our difficulties, and help and support us in our disasters. At present we have nothing of that kind but what is conflicting and embarrassing. Look at what happened with regard to the cattle plague. First, we heard of the cattle plague being at Antwerp, and eight weeks passed before an order was issued. I don't think we should now be collecting agricultural statistics for last July if we had an Agricultural Board, nor do I think that the

compensation for cattle slaughtered in 1865 would have been postponed till last April had there been such a department." There can be little doubt of the advantage to be derived from the existence of such a Board, together with the appointment of a responsible Minister. In France and America such institutions have been attended with the best results, and here we should be the better for the concentrated attention of certain competent persons upon all subjects lying within the range of the grainer and farmer. The Minister for Lands might probably represent such a Board in the Assembly; but perhaps he might tell us that he has plenty to do already. We observe that a desire for united effort exists in New Zealand. A conference of representatives from the different Agricultural and Pastoral Societies in Otago has been lately held at Dunedin, and have reported to Government in favour of the creation of a Chamber of Agriculture, "to collect and diffuse useful information on all subjects relating to agriculture and the breeding of stock, and also to all industries connected with these." It is designed that the Chamber shall be supported by public subscription, shall be elective, and shall deal with matters granted by Government, apportioning to the subscription lists of the constituent societies. Amongst a great quantity of good advice offered to the Government we observe something connected with the formation of a University in Otago, which should embrace a chair of chemistry, and technology, as well as an agricultural and industrial museum and library. They also consider it desirable that a bank should be instituted on the Scottish principle, through which the Government might make advances for improvements upon freehold property, in the form of roadmaking, draining, planting, fencing, and the like. This conference, be it observed, was not held with the approval of the Government, so that there is a reasonable chance of the best of these suggestions being carried into effect, and the Chamber of Agriculture possibly erected. It will be instructive to observe what success will attend this movement. Possibly Victoria may come to perceive where she has stumbled. The educational design is excellent, and may well strengthen the disposition of those who desire to see something similar in New South Wales. We shall only be following in the wake of most of the European nations, and of America, in doing our utmost to shed instruction broadcast in the minds of the people. France has long been alive to the necessity, and has carried out special measures for the instruction of gardeners. England is now following in the same direction by means of the Horticultural Society; and we are glad to learn that Mr. Moore, the Director of the Sydney Gardens, is contemplating a renewal of his botanical lectures in October next, for these may be taken as the nucleus of something more extensive. We learn with pleasure that at the gates of Paris is to be erected an Agronomic Institute, to afford purely theoretical instruction, to be completed afterwards by an initiation into the practice of a farm.

The land system of Queensland came into play on the 1st of May. The lands in and near towns, and for three miles on each side of a railway—were thrown open for selection at the highest price of 15s. an acre, payable in ten years. It will be well for us when such an announcement can be made of New South Wales. During the next twelve months there will be a great movement of the sister colony, since the whole of the runs in the settled districts will be resumed by the State, half of them being re-granted to the existing tenants for ten years, at the same rent as was previously paid for the whole, the other half being thrown open for selection.

LAW

INSOLVENCY COURT.
SATURDAY.
The undermentioned estates were surrendered:
Harry Edwy Shorter, of Sydney, late of Bathurst, conv. *Trustee*, £124 19s. 3d. Assets, £11 10s. 6d. Mr. Campbell, official assignee.
John Zetich, of Grafton, late of Sydney, conv. *Trustee*, £101 16s. 4d. Assets, £101 16s. 4d. Mr. Campbell, official assignee.
COURT BUSINESS.
Monday, May 11.—William S. A. O. information for fraudulent bankruptcy.
Tuesday, May 12.—At 10 o'clock, *Arbitration*, special, At 11:15, *Arbitration*, special, At 12:15, *Arbitration*, special.
Wednesday, May 13.—At 11:15, *Arbitration*, special, At 12:15, *Arbitration*, special.
Thursday, May 14.—At 10 o'clock, *Arbitration*, special, At 11:15, *Arbitration*, special, At 12:15, *Arbitration*, special.
Friday, May 15.—At 10 o'clock, *Arbitration*, special, At 11:15, *Arbitration*, special, At 12:15, *Arbitration*, special.

CENTRAL POLICE COURT.
SATURDAY.
Before their Worship the Police Magistrate, Messrs. Dangar and Bray.
Of fourteen prisoners brought before the Court, three were discharged, and two were remanded.
Seven persons were fined in sums varying from 5s. to 20s. for drunkenness and riotous behaviour.
Mary Murray was found guilty of having wilfully broken through the property of Joseph, and was ordered to pay 4s. damages, or to be imprisoned seven days.
Elizabeth Clark, under commitment for obtaining goods by false pretences, was remanded by her bail, having been informed that she is about to abscond, and was remanded to custody.
Thomas Cavanagh and James Griffiths were brought before the Bench by Detective Broadbent and Powell, who deposed that they were engaged in a robbery on 10 p.m. yesterday on suspicion of being concerned with the late February last in breaking into the premises of George Chisholm and Co., situated in the city, and stealing a value of £400. On cross-examination, it appeared that the detectives have seen a telegram from a neighbouring colony to the effect that one or more persons have been apprehended with the property and implicating the prisoners. The officers asked for a remand of a week. Messrs. Carroll and Driver, for the prisoners, protested against the detention of their clients on the bare suspicion of a detective, who suspects everybody, founded on nothing better than a telegraphic message from no one, and in a position to give evidence. They ought to have bided their time, keeping their eyes upon the prisoners until they were in a position to give evidence in support of their suspicion, instead of pointing upon them and looking them up on a suspicion founded on a worthless telegram. If Chisholm and Co. were to be made to let them do so, and they would be prepared to meet it, and have somebody to look to for redress. Mr. Dangar granted a remand for a week, and refused bail.

THE POOR BOX.—Received last. Annotated on person.
The *Box*—Monday, May 11. Messrs. Murphy, Spence, Evans, and Powell; Tuesday, 12. Messrs. A. Long, Cogan, Mogg, and Dangar; Wednesday, 13. Messrs. Chapman, Day, and Renwick; Thursday, 14. Messrs. Birch, Smith, Levey, and Renwick; Friday, 15. Messrs. Cogan, Levey, and Renwick; Saturday, 16. Messrs. Dangar, Day, and Palca.

WATER POLICE COURT.
SATURDAY.
Before their Worship, Messrs. H. H. Voss and W. Church.
Thomas Pettit was brought before the Court charged with stealing a pair of boots, valued at 6s., the property of Michael Hume, who deposed that he took the boots in question from out of a mail outside his shop, where they were exposed for sale. Prisoner clothing to be summarily dealt with, and he was ordered to be imprisoned for three months with hard labour.
The *Box*—Monday, May 11. Messrs. G. R. Rattray, R. D. Spence, J. Williams; Tuesday, 12. Messrs. A. Long, Cogan, Mogg, and Dangar; Wednesday, 13. Messrs. Chapman, Day, and Renwick; Thursday, 14. Messrs. Birch, Smith, Levey, and Renwick; Friday, 15. Messrs. Cogan, Levey, and Renwick; Saturday, 16. Messrs. Dangar, Day, and Palca.

LAW PROCEEDINGS THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT.
JURY COURT.—Messrs. J. Brookes, Dr. Bee, W. R. Borden, J. Cogan, J. Mogg, and J. A. Long; Tuesday, 12. Messrs. A. Long, Cogan, Mogg, and Dangar; Wednesday, 13. Messrs. Chapman, Day, and Renwick; Thursday, 14. Messrs. Birch, Smith, Levey, and Renwick; Friday, 15. Messrs. Cogan, Levey, and Renwick; Saturday, 16. Messrs. Dangar, Day, and Palca.

INQUEST ON THE LATE MR. J. L. MICHAEL.

Abridged from the Clarion and Richmond Examiner, May 5.
On Wednesday, the 26th ultimo, an inquest was held at the Court House, Grafton, concerning the cause of death of James Lionel Michael, when the following evidence was given:

The first witness examined was Marion Wakefield, who deposed: She was the housekeeper of the late Mr. Michael, and had seen the deceased about seven o'clock on Sunday evening last, when he left his late residence in Victoria-street, Grafton, stating that he was going out for a walk. The deceased called her to put on his gloves, which she did, and then asked her to put on his hat, which she also did, and then he went out. She saw the deceased on Saturday last, the 25th, when he called on her, and was found by her at Christmas last, just before deceased left to go on a trip to the Clarence River, with instructions to give to Mr. Stevenson, in the event of anything happening to him; he had since inquired if she had handed the letter to Mr. Stevenson, and she deposed that she had, and that she had seen the letter, and that she had seen the deceased on Saturday last, the 25th, when he called on her, and was found by her at Christmas last, just before deceased left to go on a trip to the Clarence River, with instructions to give to Mr. Stevenson, in the event of anything happening to him; he had since inquired if she had handed the letter to Mr. Stevenson, and she deposed that she had, and that she had seen the letter, and that she had seen the deceased on Saturday last, the 25th, when he called on her, and was found by her at Christmas last, just before deceased left to go on a trip to the Clarence River, with instructions to give to Mr. Stevenson, in the event of anything happening to him; 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